

Official indoor base ball guide containing the constitution, 1906

SPALDING'S INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE for 1906

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GEORGE W. IIANCOCK, "Father of Indoor Base Ball."

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND PLAYING RULES

OFFICERS

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INDOOR BASE BALL

INDOOR BASE BALL ORIGIN OF GAME The game of indoor base ball was invented in Chicago in 1887. Members of the Farragut Boat Club had assembled in the gymnasium hall on Thanksgiving day of that year and an old boxing glove was carelessly thrown around the room. One of the boys took up a broom and batted the glove back to the thrower, when George W. Hancock suddenly exclaimed, "Say, boys, let's play ball!" Thereupon the huge wrestling mat was hauled around to answer for a diamond and a lively game of "scrub" took place, the broom-handle having been broken off and used for the bat and the unwieldy boxing glove taking the place of a ball. It proved great fun and at its conclusion Mr. Hancock gathered the members around him and unfolded a plan which had occurred to him as the players were sliding around the hall. "I believe this affair can be worked into a regular game of base ball which can be played indoors, and if you all come down Saturday night I'll make up some rules and have a ball and bat which will

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suit the purpose of the sport and do no damage to the surroundings." And so, on the night announced, two teams were chosen, and Mr. Hancock read the rules he had made up to suit the surroundings and presented to the gaze of the assembled members the huge ball and small rubber-tipped bat which have since been identified with the game. The contest was one of the funniest performances ever witnessed and members and visitors went away loud in their praises of "Indoor Base Ball," as the new sport was christened.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 13 From this beginning, the game has grown until it now reaches out into all parts of the country, and thousands upon thousands are entertained during the winter months either as active participants or as enthusiastic followers of the teams engaged in the sport.

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THE GAME'S PROGRESS

THE GAME'S PROGRESS By GEORGE W. HANCOCK. Indoor base ball, as now so universally played through- out the United States and Canada, is practically governed by the same rules as those which obtained at the initial game in the club house of the Farraguts so many years ago. It has developed many players and a host of inter- ested followers, but in all the seasons the changes in rules have been slight. The principal difficulty to overcome when the game started was the puzzle of making the run from base to base after a pitched ball. Precise calculation of the time required for the catcher to throw to a base as compared with the time of a runner between bases (27 feet apart showed that the stealing of second base depended on the speed of the runner, provided he started from first at the time the catcher received the ball. Therefore the rule was made that the runner must not start "until a pitched ball has reached or passed the catcher," and so well has this worked that the same close play is found at second base as when a player tries

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to steal in the out- door game under the old rule. With this point successfully settled, the other rules were more easily evolved, and with the proper balancing of the relative sizes of the bat and ball to meet requirements, the game may be said to have started on its successful career. Owing to the newness of the game and consequent inexperience of those who played, the score at first oftentimes ran into large figures, the record of the initial contest being 41 to 40. As the play of the athletes improved, the

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 17 result was much smaller figures and more on the professional basis of base ball, until now, with numerous clubs and leagues all over the country, the game has reached a scientific standpoint hitherto unsuspected of fulfilment. It can be played in any hall of size which will permit of sufficient light and room for the diamond and fielding, the composition of the floor being immaterial, as the rubber- soled shoes required to be worn will allow running on even the waxed floor of a dancing hall. About the smallest size for a playing floor is 40 x 50 feet. A larger surface will, of course, allow greater freedom for fielding and running. The spectators are usually placed in the right and left field, on either side of the catcher's territory, and in galleries, according to the construction of the room used for play. At first the sport was confined to a few of the social clubs of Chicago, which had organized a league, but of late years great strides have been made toward having the game spread all over the United States. Many of the Chicago clubs have made trips to cities East and West and played indoor ball before large crowds of spectators, who had become initiated in the sport, and consequently extremely interested, for it is said of indoor ball that it is the most exciting sport which the winter months give us, ~, ~ for, the space allotted for play usually being somewhat confined, the spectators and players are at no great distance from each other, and the rapid action is of a very exciting nature. Some excellent players have been developed, especially among amateurs. Several professionals have tried their hand, but find themselves outclassed by the more nimble amateurs, as agility rather than strength enters largely into the sport. In playing the indoor game, ordinary base ball suits are the

proper dress, except that the spiked shoes are done away with and rubber-soled ones used instead. At the knee and hip the trousers should be thickly padded, as

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. In contact with the floor at these points is a common occurrence. A different style of play is noticeable in the successful indoor player from that adopted outdoors. In sliding to bases there must be perfect abandon, and, sliding well around the bag, the arm can be thrust out in passing and the base held. In batting, the ball can be bunted successfully, and, as the first contact with the floor decides its fairness, this feature is one practiced by many of the best players. Still, it must not be supposed that long hits cannot be made, for many home runs have been credited on drives that are astonishing in their force. The short stops usually play close to the batter-about ten feet, one on either side of the pitcher, for in the indoor game the right fielder comes into the diamond and takes the position known as "right short." The umpires' duties are rather difficult, as the quick play and closeness to the players oftentimes actually prevent their seeing the action, but in case one is unable to judge the other may be appealed to. It is surprising to note the expertness with which girls also can play the game after short practice. Many of the schools have leagues for girls' clubs and under proper training they develop wonderful playing, their contests being highly interesting though of necessity the number of spectators is more limited. Indoor base ball is a pleasant, agreeable and moderate sport. It has delighted thousands and incidentally developed an increasing interest in the outdoor game so closely are the two allied. It has emerged from what was at first termed a "fad" to a well-balanced, exciting sport, -and there no longer can be any doubt that it has come to take its proper place among such games as foot ball, cricket, tennis and golf.

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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SUGGESTIONS TO UMPIRES

SUGGESTIONS TO UMPIRES By CHARLES H. STEIN, Chief of Umpire Staff, Chicago Indoor Base Ball League. One of the first things for an umpire to acquire is to thoroughly familiarize himself with all the rules so that he can give a decision quickly and not be obliged to refer to a rule book. Assume full charge of the play from the commencement to the termination of the game, be firm in your decisions, and do not allow any player except the captain to discuss a decision with you, nor allow the players to discuss a decision among themselves, as wrangling of this kind is very annoying to the spectators. Never be too friendly with the players or talk with the spectators during the progress of the game and especially do not argue with them about any of your decisions. Never start a game without having a thorough understanding with both captains regarding the ground rules. See that the players take their positions in the field promptly and that the next batter up is always ready to take his place at bat. Remember that life and action is what makes the sport interesting, and a slow, listless game is very wearying to the people who pay their money to see you perform. Don't be afraid to move, so as to get in the best possible position to properly judge a close play. The umpire should think the same as a player, that if a certain play is made, what he should do, and figure out what position he should take to see the play properly. As a parting injunction do not under any circumstances allow profanity or vulgarity of any kind, for nothing will so quickly demoralize the sport and cheapen the game.

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THE ART OF BATTING

THE ART OF BATTING 90, By AN OLD TIMER. To become a successful batter requires coolness, a good eye, good judgment and a number of other requisites which only come to a man by constant practice. I have followed the game since its infancy and I have never seen two men whom I can say bat exactly alike. It is quite true the position some batters assume are much alike, some crouch low down, while others stand upright, some drive the ball out hard, while others mix them up and place their hit. I would advise a man to assume an easy, natural position so as to be ready for any kind of a ball pitched. Remember the pitcher is always sizing you up to ascertain your weakness while at the bat and you should study him, to find out his peculiarities, as every pitcher has them. Some pitchers would rather pitch to a slugger than to a bunter and vice versa. Always try to do the opposite to what the pitcher intends to make you do, as nearly as you can judge, and confuse him as much as possible. Another thing which you must not lose sight of is, that every player on the opposing team is also sizing you up, and by your position and general way of handling yourself they may judge in which direction the ball may go if you hit it. I would advise a batter to conduct himself in such a manner as to mislead his opponent of his intentions. For example, suppose one of your team mates is on base and you wish to advance him and do not want to take a chance on hitting out a fly ball and causing a double

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GTIDE. 35 play, therefore you decide to bunt; you take your position at the plate, grip your bat firmly and wait for your ball, which should be a low one; (never try to bunt a high ball, or you will be easy prey for the shortstops) when you see a low ball coming and it is well on its way to the plate, loosen your grip on the bat, slide your right hand well out to the middle and let the bat give with the ball just as the ball hits it, drop the bat and get to first base with all possible speed. Another trick which is often worked with success is the fake bunt. The batter holds his bat as if he were going to bunt, thereby drawing in the shortstops up under the bat and causing the fielders to play close in, picks out his ball and meets it squarely. A hit made in this way usually comes at the fielders too hot for them to handle and very frequently there is a mix-up which enables the runners to get more bases than they would get ordinarily. If at any time you make three strikes never stop to see if the catcher catches the third strike, but run to first base at top speed. It is time enough when you reach the bag to see if you are declared out, and the exertion won't hurt you any. A left-handed batter has a great advantage over a man who bats right handed, as the left-handed batter's box is nearer to first base, and his motion has a tendency to throw him into his stride more than that of the right-hander. I would not advise a man to swing hard at an indoor ball as he usually misses his aim and the force of his swing throws him out of his stride. The proper way is an easy sweeping swing or a short quick chop. Another piece of advice and I am done. Never stop to argue with the umpire over balls and strikes, as it only gets you excited, and that is just what the pitcher wants, as an excited batter becomes an easy mark for a pitcher.

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HOW TO BECOME A BASE RUNNER

HOW TO BECOME A BASE RUNNER To become a good base runner in indoor base ball, it is highly important that a player be always on the alert to take advantage of all

opportunities which may happen to come his way. The clever and successful base runner is not always the man who is naturally fast, but the one who utilizes his speed to the best advantage and will take long chances when the occasion requires it. The rule which compels a player attempting to steal not to start for the next base until a pitched ball has reached or passed the catcher, results in the same closeness of play at second and third bases as is seen in the outdoor game when a player is trying to steal. The most important thing for a base runner to learn is the art of sliding to a base. In attempting to steal a base, a player should take a long slide, usually on the inside of the bag, and thrusting out his arm catch hold of the bag in passing. Of course a good deal depends on the position of the basemen and also the cleverness of the man stealing. For instance, if you once get started for a base, keep on and don't look back to see how the throw is, but judge that from the action of the player on the base. If the throw is high, slide in on the inside of the bag. If the basemen is playing in front of the base and the throw is low, then try and get around in back of him. It is always considered good form in indoor base ball for a player to slide head first, not only because of his being better able to get hold of the bag, but also in being in a better position to see and take advantage of any muffed or wild throw. Then again, it is very important that a man

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INDOOR BASE BALL IN CANADA

INDOOR BASE BALL IN CANADA The Canadian home of base ball is Toronto, and the fans who watch the game during the summer months are not content to allow the enthusiasm for the sport to lay dormant during the winter. In consequence of the desire to

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witness the fine points of this most scientific pastime, teams were organized in the various city regiments to play the game during the post-drill season in the winter months. This occurred in 1897, when two or three companies of two of the regiments played each other when challenged. But no attempt was made to form a league till the fall of 1900, when the "Queen's Own Rifles" organized a regiment league; this was not much of a success, as there was no trophy to play for, and bowling was now occupying the interest of most of the men. In December, 1901, Major Currie, of the 48th Highlanders, presented a magnificent silver cup, which was to become the property of the first team that won it three times. The league that season was composed of eleven teams, divided into two sections, C Company 48th and the Toronto Field Engineers being the winners. In the finals C Company 48th, defeated the Engineers, capturing two out of three games, which gave them the honor of being first to win the "Currie Cup." The season of 1902-3 saw the league with 18 teams, also divided into two sections. In the finals the Toronto Field Engineers won the championship from the Ninth Field Battery in two straight games. . The officers of the league who did much to further the sport were: President, Major Currie; vice-president; Sergeant Bogart; secretary, Sergeant Duguid; treasurer, Sergeant Addison.

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### IMPLEMENTS OF THE GAME

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 51 The pants should either be padded at the knees and -hips, or the regular adjustable knee-pad used to prevent actual contact of these parts of the anatomy with the floor. SHOES. All shoes worn must have rubber soles; those with cor- rugated rubber having been found the best. MATS. Where bases lie near a wall, padded mats should be stood up opposite, against which the players may strike when running or sliding.

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### CONSTITUTION

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 6I ARTICLE VII. The Secretary, upon the written request of a member of the Executive Committee, or three members of the Association, shall submit any question to a vote of the Executive Committee. Within five days after the vote on 2~\* ~ the question, he shall mail to each member of the Association the question and the result of the vote. ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS. (I) The Constitution of this Association may be altered or amended by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Committee, providing such alterations or amendments have been submitted in writing, together with the name of the member proposing it. (2) Any section of this Constitution may be suspended or its provisions made non-applicable by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee,

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## ORGANIZATION OF LEAGUES

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 65 Another point to which careful attention should be given is the selection of officials. See that competent and impartial umpires and scorers are secured, and that the scores are turned over to the Secretary after each game, so that the average of the players can be kept, as they are very interesting to both the public and the players. See that the umpire gets the respect

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due him, back him up in his official acts, and do not countenance continual kicking by the players. Last, but not least, see that your press committee keep the press supplied with information concerning the affairs of the league and secure advertising wherever possible. The following is practically a copy of the Constitution of the Chicago Indoor Base Ball League, and has worked smoothly for the past four or five years,

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### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 69 ARTICLE V. EXPULSION OF CLUBS. Any club is liable to expulsion that fails to live up to the Constitution; the facts in any case must be reported at once to the Secretary, who shall at once notify the party charged with the offense, inquiring whether any dispute exists as to the facts alleged. In case the facts are disputed, the Board of Directors shall, after due notice, try the case under such regulation as they prescribe, and their finding shall be final and conclusive. ARTICLE VI. Each club shall file with the secretary on or before the day of registration of each player, accompanied by the necessary fee, and shall deposit with the secretary cash, same to be forfeited on expulsion or withdrawal of club. A special assessment may be levied by the Board of Directors to cover any deficit that may exist. ARTICLE VII. IMPOSING OF FINES. Upon conviction of any violation of the Constitution or By-Laws, the Board of Directors may, in the first instance, as a preliminary to or in lieu of expulsion, impose such a fine as is in their judgment commensurate with the injury, which fine may include a penalty payable to any other club or clubs, as an equivalent for damage sustained, or payable to the League, to be disposed of as the Board of Directors see fit.

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The Arbitration Committee shall have the power to impose such fine on any club or player reported for violation of the Constitution or playing rules, as in their judgment the case warrants. ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS. Each club of the League shall be entitled to two (2) delegates to the League which

shall be elected by the clubs. The President shall be elected for one year, and may be re-elected. The Vice-President shall be elected for one year, and may be re-elected. The Secretary shall be elected for one year, and may be re-elected. The Treasurer shall be elected for one year, and may be re-elected. The Board of Directors shall be elected for one year, and may be re-elected.

SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. It shall constitute the governing body of said League, from which shall be elected a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and six (6) directors, which shall constitute the Board of Directors; no two (2) shall be elected from any one club. Amended that President be non-representative of any club represented in the League. ARTICLE IX. DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT. The President shall preside at all meetings of the League and Board of Directors; appoint all committees, and perform such other duties as pertain to his office or may be assigned him by Board of Directors. He shall, with the Secretary, sign all necessary documents. He shall have the casting vote, in case of a tie, on all questions at both League and Board meetings. In absence of the President at any meeting of the League, the Vice-President shall exercise the power and duties of the President at such meetings. ARTICLE X. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall be treasurer of the League, and as such shall be custodian of all funds of the League, and shall render monthly a report of his account. He shall have the custody and care of all official records and documents; shall keep a true record of all meetings of the League and Board of Directors; shall issue all official notices and attend to the necessary correspondence. He shall be entitled to such books, stationery, and material as the actual duties of his office may require (and shall keep a complete record of all games played). ARTICLE XI. DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to carry out the objects and purposes of the League. They shall have the power to adopt such rules and regulations as they may deem

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 73 necessary for the government of the League on matters not determined by the By-Laws or special action of the League, and may enforce a due observance of the same by such actions as in the opinion of the Board of Directors the welfare of the League may render necessary or advisable. They shall have power to receive and act upon all resigna- tions of members, officers, and directors. Any officer or director of the League desiring to resign shall present his resignation to the Board in writing. ARTICLE XII. PROTESTS. All protests shall be settled by an Arbitration Committee % five, to be appointed by the Board of Directors, and must not be connected with any team or club of this League. All protests must be in writing and in the hands of the Sec- retary within forty-eight (48) hours after the game. 'rotests must be accompanied by a fee of \$5.00. ARTICLE XIII. UMPIRES AND THEIR DUTIES. A staff of League umpires shall be selected by a chief of umpires (chief of umpires to be selected by the delegates), who will have full charge of same and direct them when and where to officiate, and shall pay them their salaries. lie shall furnish umpires with proper credentials to show that they are duly authorized to officiate. (1) It shall be the duty of the umpire to enforce the rules as they are written, regardless of his personal opinion as to their merit. (2) The umpire is sole and absolute judge of play. In no instance (under penalty of fine, to be imposed by Arbi- tration Committee), shall any person, except the captians of the competing teams, be allowed to address him or question his decision, and they can only question him on an interpretation of the rules. No manager or any other officer of either club shall be per- mitted to go on the field or address the umpire under a penalty of a forfeiture of a game. (3) Before the commencement of a game, the umpire of the game shall see that the rules governing all the materials of the game are strictly observed.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 75 He shall ask the captain of the home club whether there are any special ground rules to be enforced, and if there are he shall see that they are duly enforced, provided they do not conflict with any of these rules. (4) Umpires shall call game at 8.30 P. M., sharp. (5) The umpires must keep the contesting nines playing constantly from the commencement of the game to its termination, allowing such delays only as are rendered unavoidable by accident or injury. He must, until the completion of the game, require the players of each side to promptly take their positions in the field as soon as the third man is put out, and must require the first batter of the opposite side to be in his position at the bat as soon as the fielders are in their places. The umpire may remove from the game any player guilty of vulgar, indecent or other improper conduct or language, and shall report same to the Arbitration Committee. (6) It is the duty of the umpire to stop any offensive "rooting" or noise, and to positively prohibit all continuous "rooting" under penalty of a forfeiture of the game by the side at fault.

ARTICLE XIV. COACHING. The coaches shall be restricted to coaching the base-runner only, and shall not be allowed to address any remarks except to the base-runner, and then only in words of necessary direction; and shall not use language which shall in any manner refer to or reflect upon a player of the opposing team, the umpire or the spectators; and not more than one coach will be allowed with one runner on base, and two coaches with two or three runners on bases. To enforce the above the captain of the opposite side may call the attention of the umpire to the offence, and upon a repetition of the same, the offending player shall be debarred from further participation in the game.

ARTICLE XV. REMOVAL. Any League umpire shall be subject to removal by the Board of Directors, and in the event of the resignation or removal of any League umpire the chief of umpires shall have power to appoint a suitable person to fill the vacancy thus created.



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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 79 ARTICLE XXIII. MEMBERS OF TEAM. Any person in good standing with the League may play on any team represented in the League. A player who plays a League game with a club in this League cannot play a League game with any other club in this League unless he gets a written release from the manager of club with which he has played. ARTICLE XXIV. REGISTRATION. The manager of each club shall be required to register the players of his team (regular and substitute) with the secretary. Each registration to be accompanied by a fee of twenty-five (25) cents. Players must be registered one week before they are eligible to play. Their personal signature to be attached to said registration blank. Managers shall have option on services of player so registered for the next season, and any player desiring his release shall appeal to the Arbitration Committee. ARTICLE XXV. RULES GOVERNING MEETING. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the meetings of the League. ARTICLE XXVI. MISCELLANEOUS. 1. Roll call. 2. Reading of minutes of last meeting. 3. Report of committees. 4. Report of officers. 5. Reading of correspondence. 6. Election of new members. 7. Unfinished business. 8. New business. 9. Adjournment.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 8- ARTICLE XXVII. AMENDMENTS. The Constitution of the League may be altered or amended by a three-fourths vote of all the delegates present at any regular or special meeting of the League called for that purpose, provided such alterations or amendments have been submitted in writing and entered on the minutes, together with the name of the person proposing it, at a previous meeting of the League. Any section of the Constitution may be suspended or its provisions made non-applicable by unanimous vote at a League meeting.

## HANCOCK'S INDOOR BASE BALL RULES

HANCOCK'S INDOOR BASE BALL RULES AS REVISED AND ADOPTED BY THE National Indoor Base Ball Association OF THE UNITED STATES RULE I. The diamond is laid at one end of the hall, leaving room for the catcher, who always plays close behind the batsman. The bases (except the home plate) are 12 feet square,, made of canvas,, half filled with sand or other similar substance. The home plate is of rubber and is one foot square. Each side of the diamond is 27 feet long, and a base is placed in each corner and need not be fastened to the floor. The distance from home to second base, and from first to third base is 38 1/4 feet. The pitcher's box is 7 x 3 feet, the nearest line of said box to be 22 feet from the centre of home base. The batsman's box (one to the left and one to the right of the home base) shall be four feet long and three feet wide, extending one foot in front of and three feet behind a centre line through the home base, with its nearest side distant six inches from the home base, the outlines to be marked on the floor.

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SPALDING S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 89 RULE VII. THE GAME. A game shall consist of nine innings to each contesting club, except that, if the side first at the bat scores less runs in nine innings than the other has scored in eight innings, the game shall

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then terminate; or, if the side last at bat in the ninth inning scores the winning run before the third man is out, the game shall terminate. RULE VIII. A TIE GAME. If the score be a tie at the end of the ninth innings to each side, play shall only be continued until the side first at bat shall have scored one or more runs than the other side in an equal number of innings, or until the other side shall score one or more runs than the side first at bat. RULE IX. A FORFEITED GAME. A forfeited game shall be declared by the umpire in favor of the club not in fault, at the request of such club, in the following cases: (a) If the required number of players to constitute a team fail to appear upon the field, or being upon the field fails to begin the game within one minute after the umpire has called "play" at the hour appointed for the beginning of the game, unless such delay in appearing or in commencing the game be unavoidable. (b) If, after the game has begun, one side refuses or ~i ~ fails to continue playing, unless such game has been sus- pended or terminated by the umpire. i.+^~ ~RULE X. SUBSTITUTES. The base runner shall not have a substitute run for him except by the consent of the captains of the contest- ing teams.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 91 RULE XI. CHOICE OF INNINGS. The choice of innings shall be decided by flipping a coin. RULE XII. GOOD AND BAD BALLS. A ball legally delivered by the pitcher which passes r>y ~ over any part of the home base not lower than the bats- man's knee nor higher than his shoulder is a good ball. Otherwise it is a bad ball. It being assumed that the batter is standing erect while in his position. RULE XIII. BALKS. A motion to deliver the ball by the pitcher without his doing so, or holding the ball so long as to unnecessarily delay the game, constitutes a balk. RULE XIV. ILLEGAL BALLS. A ball delivered by the pitcher with any part of his person out of the box, or if the pitcher fails to heel the back line of the pitcher's box with both feet prior to pitching the ball, or if he takes more than one step in the act of delivery. When the game is played under Armory rule, an illegal pitch shall be declared if the pitcher does not heel the 18- inch line or if he uses a curve. An illegal pitch entitles any base runner or batsman to a base. RULE XV. DEAD BALLS. Any pitched ball striking the batter is a dead ball, but

does not entitle him to a base. If a batter intentionally gets in the way or interferes with any legally delivered ball a strike shall be called. If it should be the third strike the batter is out, and no base can be run on that ball.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 93 RULE XVI. NOT IN PLAY. In case of a foul strike, foul hit ball not legally caught out, dead ball, or base runner put out for being struck by a fair hit ball, the ball shall not be considered in play until it is held by the pitcher standing in his box. RULE XVII. BLOCK BALLS. A block is a batted or thrown ball that is stopped or handled by any person not engaged in the game. (a) Whenever a block occurs, base runners may run the bases without being put out, until the ball has been returned to and held by the pitcher standing in his box. (b) In the case of a block, if a person not engaged in the game should retain possession of the ball, or throw or kick it beyond the reach of the fielders, the umpire shall call "time," and require each base-runner to stop at the last base touched by him until the ball be returned to the pitcher standing in his box. (c) Special ground rules may be made allowing a certain number of bases on a fair hit into the crowd (or a thrown ball), in which case the above sections are void. RULE XVIII. THE SCORING OF RUNS. One run shall be scored every time a base-runner, after having legally touched the first three bases, shall touch the home base before three men are put out. If the third man is forced out, or is put out before reaching first base, a run shall not be scored. RULE XIX. FAIR AND FOUL BALLS. (a) A batted ball which strikes inside or on the foul line is fair, the first point of contact with the floor, object or fielder deciding, regardless of where it afterward rolls.

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SPALDING S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 97 RULE XXIII. BASE RUNNING. The batsman becomes a base runner. (a) Instantly after he makes a fair hit. than his head. NOTE-A foul tip is a ball hit by the batsman and does not go higher (b) Instantly after four balls have been called by the (c) Instantly after three strikes. umpire. (d) Instantly after the umpire declares an illegal delivery of a ball by a pitcher. RULE XXIV. BASES TO BE TOUCHED. The base-runner must touch each base in regular order, viz.: First, second, third and home base; but when obliged to return may go directly to the base which he legally holds. RULE XXV. ENTITLED TO BASES. The base-runner shall be entitled, without being put out, to take one base in the following cases. (a) If, while he was batsman, the umpire called four balls. (b) If the umpire awards a succeeding batsman a base on four balls or in case of an illegal delivery and the base-runner is thereby forced to vacate the base held by him. (c) If the umpire calls a "balk" or "illegal pitch." (d) If a ball delivered by the pitcher pass the catcher or is fumbled, only one base may be taken, provided the runner make it, unless it is a third strike or fourth ball, when the runner is entitled to all he can get. (e) If the pitcher does not give him time to return to his base. (f) If, upon a fair hit, the ball strikes the person or clothing of the umpire on fair grounds. (g) If he be prevented from making a base by the obstruction of an adversary. (h) If, when he was batsman, the pitcher delivered an "illegal ball." (i) On a fair or foul fly ball caught the base runner can advance, providing he does not leave his base until after the ball is caught. (This does not exempt the runner from being put out.)

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SPALDING S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 99 RULE XXVI. WHEN TO START. (a) A base-runner must not leave his base when the pitcher holds the ball standing in his box (except to moisten the soles of his shoes by permission of the umpire). (b) A base-runner must not leave his base on a pitched ball not struck, until after it has reached or passed the catcher, on penalty of being called back. (c) A base-runner must be on his base when the pitcher is ready to deliver the ball to the batsman.

(d) When the Armory game is played on a large diamond with 35 feet base lines, the base-runner must not leave his base on a pitched ball until after it has left the pitcher's hands, on penalty of being sent back. Starting too soon does not exempt a base runner from being put out on that particular play. The umpire must not make a decision in regard to a premature start until the base runner has reached the next base or is put out. RULE XXVII. RETURNING TO BASES. The base-runner shall return to his base, and shall be entitled to so return without being put out- (a) If the umpire declares a foul hit which is not legally caught by a fielder. (b) If the umpire declares a foul strike. (c) If the umpire declares a dead ball. (d) If the person or clothing of the umpire is struck by a ball thrown by the catcher to intercept a base-runner. (e) If he is called back by the umpire for starting too soon. RULE XXVIII. A BASE-RUNNER IS OUT. (a) If, having made a fair hit, while batsman. such fair hit ball be held by a fielder before touching the ground, wall or any fixture.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 101 (b) If he intentionally kicks or interferes with a ball he has just batted. If a ball he has just batted rebounds and hits him he shall not be declared out on that account. (c) If the third strike be caught before touching the ground or any object. (d) If, after three strikes or a fair hit, he be touched with the ball in the hands of a fielder before such base- runner touches first base. (e) If, after three strikes or a fair hit, the ball be securely held by a fielder while touching first base with any part of his person, before such base-runner touches first base. (f) If, in running from first to second base, from second to third base, or from third to home base, he runs more than three feet from a direct line between such bases to avoid being touched by a ball in the hands of a fielder; but in case a fielder be occupying a base-runner's proper path, attempting to field a batted ball, then the base-runner shall run out of the path and shall not be declared out for so doing. (g) If he fails to avoid a fielder attempting to field a batted ball, or if he in any way obstructs a fielder attempting to field a batted ball, or intentionally interferes with a thrown ball. (h) If, at any time, while the ball is in play, he be

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touched by the ball in the hands of a fielder, unless some part of his person is touching a base he is entitled to occupy; provided, the ball be held by the fielder after touching him; but-exception as to first base-in running to first base, he may overrun said base without being put out for being off said base, after first touching it, provided he returns at once and retouches the base, after which he may be put out as at any other base. If, in overrunning first base, he also attempt to run to second base, he shall forfeit such exemption from being put out.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 103 (i) If, when a fair of four fly is legally caught, such ball is legally held by a fielder on the base occupied by the base runner when such ball was struck, or the base runner be touched with the ball in the hands of a fielder, before he retouches said base after such fair or foul hit ball was so caught. (j) If a fair hit ball strikes him before touching a fielder, wall or fixture, except when a runner is holding a base he is legally entitled to, and in such case no base shall be run unless forced by the batsman becoming a base runner, and no run shall be scored. (k) If, when running to a base, he fail to touch the intervening base or bases in regular order, he may be put out at the base he fails to touch by a fielder holding the ball on said base, in the same manner as in running to first base. RULE XXIX. TURN EITHER WAY. In returning to first base, after overrunning, the base-runner may turn either way. RULE XXX. SAFELY ON A BASE. A base-runner is safely on a base if he slides with the bag and clings to it; or, if any part of his person is touching the spot where the bag should be; or, he is safe if he has touched the home base or where the base should be. If, in sliding with the bag at any base, he should stop, he must then return with the bag to the proper spot before starting for another base, the same as in overrunning first base. RULE XXXI. COACHING RULES. The coaches are restricted in coaching to base-runners only, and are not allowed to address any remarks except to base-runners, and then only in words of necessary direction.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 107 plate, and shall call play or time, and shall take a position behind the catcher. (e) No. 2 shall judge all base plays excepting those at home plate and shall take a position about ten feet back of the base line, midway between home and first or home and third bases, or where he can best view the play. (f) The umpires shall be sole judges of the play, and discussion will only be allowed on correct interpretation of the rules and not on any optional decision. All such discussions are restricted to the two captains. '(g) The two umpires shall change positions at the end of every full inning. (h) In case an umpire for some reason cannot decide a play, he shall refer to his colleague. The umpires shall ask the captain of the home team whether there are any special ground rules to be enforced, and if there are, they shall see that they are duly enforced, provided they do not conflict with any of these rules. (i) The umpires must keep the contesting nines playing constantly from the commencement of the game to its termination, allowing such delays only as are rendered unavoidable by accident or injury. The umpires must, until the completion of the game, require the players of each side to promptly take their positions in the field as soon as the third man is put out, and must require the first batter of the opposite side to be in his position at the bat as soon as the fielders are in their places. RULE XXXV. CALLING "PLAY" AND "TIME." (a) The umpire designated as No. 1 must call "play" promptly at the hour designated by the home club, and on the call of "play" the game must immediately begin. When he calls "time," play must be suspended until he calls "play" again, and during the interim no player shall

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 109 be put out, base be run or run be scored. The umpire shall suspend play only for an accident to himself or a player (but in case of accident to a fielder "time" shall not be called until the ball be returned to and held by the pitcher standing in his box). (b) "Time" must not be called for trivial causes. The practice of players suspending the game to discuss or contest a decision with either umpire is a gross violation of the rules and the umpire must not allow it. (c) If a player wilfully disobeys the cautions of the umpires in regard to violations of the rules he may, at the discretion of the umpires, be ordered out of the game and his place be filled, if such decision reduce the side to less than eight players. RULE XXXVI. SCORING. In order to promote uniformity in scoring, the following suggestions and definitions are made for the benefit of scorers, and they are required to make all scores in accordance therewith. SECTION I. The first item in the tabulated score, after the player's name and position, shall be the number of times he has been at bat during the game. No time at bat shall be scored if the batsman be given first base on called balls or on an illegal delivery of the ball by the pitcher. SEC. 2. In the second column shall be set down the number of hits made by each player. A hit should be scored in the following cases: When the ball from the bat strikes the ground within the foul lines and out of reach of the fielders. When a hit ball is partially or wholly stopped by a fielder in motion, but such player cannot recover himself in time to handle the ball before the striker reaches first base. When a ball is hit with such force to a fielder that he cannot handle it in time to put out the batsman.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 113 RULE XXXVII. SUMMARY. SECTION I. The score made in each inning of the game. SEC. 2. The number of two-base hits made by each player. SEC. 3. The number of three-base hits made by each player. SEC. 4. The number of home runs made by each player. SEC. 5. The number of hits

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made off each pitcher. SEC. 6. The number of times the pitcher strikes out the opposing batsmen. SEC. 7. The number of times the pitcher gives bases on balls. SEC. 8. The number of wild pitches charged to the pitcher. SEC. 9. The number of passed balls by each catcher. SEC. IO. The time of the game. SEC. II. The names of the umpires.

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### INDOOR BASE BALL FOR WOMEN

by women as basket ball. The first reason is that basket ball is easily understood by spectators, which makes it popular, especially with those who do not know the general rules of athletic games. The majority of those who attend indoor games for women do not understand base ball.

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 121 School, Chicago, have shown that it is successful in every way. Marked improvement in the physical condition of the players has re- sulted in every case. No one showed any of the effects resulting from over exertion. Girls bat well, and soon learn fielding. They throw easily overhanded and underhanded, and after a few weeks' practice develop considerable speed. The most difficult places to fill are usually the pitcher's and catcher's positions. Among several can- didates, however, some one can be found possessing the requisite strength of arm and wrist for the pitcher's work. Such players may improve rapidly, and learn to pitch surprisingly swift balls. There are some natural catchers who receive the ball excellently,

but it usually requires time to develop material for this position. Experienced players can learn to catch after a little practice unless they are afraid of the bat. As a result of the experiments in our high school, we have concluded that indoor base ball can be learned by young women, and that the game is instructive, entertaining and highly beneficial. Steps have been taken toward the organization of a league of Chicago and Cook County high schools. There is no reason why it cannot be successful.

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### HOW TO TEACH GIRLS TO PLAY INDOOR BASE BALL

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SPALDING S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. girls' classes is how much to teach it, so as not to waste the valuable time allotted to gymnastic exercises, and also, be very careful that the girls do not get tired of the game before they learn it. Trying to explain all the points of the game at once will only bewilder girls, and they would immediately come to conclusion that they can never learn it. They come to the gymnasium for physical exercise and mental rest, and we must tax their memory as little as possible. Best thing is to take a little resort to strategy, follow a simple rule of pedagogy, so to speak, teach the game by degrees and make them believe that they play "the real thing" in the first hour. It is easy to give them only a rough outline of the game and start. They can play without knowing anything about "balls" and "strikes," without knowing what "stealing a base," a "forced run," a "double play" mean." "Hit and run" and "try to get home without being tagged" is about all what the "ins" need to know, and "catch the ball and tag the runner" is all what the "outs" need to know. But, of course, the main part of the game, when you have a class of beginners, is played by the instructor. He himself must be a good player, and in order to make the game lively for the beginners, he takes a position in the pitchers' box. Then he lets the batter hit the ball, at the same time giving quick and short directions to

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the " outs" what to do. He must pitch the ball so tha' the girl cannot help making a good hit, and if the "outs" are rather slow in getting the ball, he must do it himself, thus giving them an example " how to do it next time." In fact, a teacher must play a main part of the game himself with such a class, otherwise the "ins" would have an easy time in making runs, and you would have a listless, disinteresting game, and the time devoted to games would be wasted. It is not necessary to add that a teacher must play as a pitcher for both sides. In the meantime, while the play goes on, point after point comes up, which the teacher always explains, thus adding more and more interest to the game. Hard work for the instructor? It is,- but when you see the girls rturning to their rooms with sparkling eyes and flushed cheeks, full of new life, full of mirth, full of healthy excitement, when you see those beautiful roses in their cheeks, you must feel that you have been sufficiently rewarded for your hard work.

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### INDOOR BASE BALL IN BUFFALO

INDOOR BASE BALL IN BUFFALO By WALTER C. MASON, of the Buffalo Express.

Indoor base ball has become one of the permanent win- ter sports for the young men of Buffalo and Western New York. The game has been played here off and on for the past ten years, but never until last winter has it seen so many devotees or been placed on such a solid footing. Young men who play in minor leagues during the summer months find it a grand opportunity to remain in condition the year round. Buffalo is in every sense a base ball city, and it is no exaggeration to say that the town boasts l50 amateur teams, all uniformed and equipped for the national game. The truth of this statement can be

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attested by J. R. Weld, Jr., manager of A. G. Spalding & Bros.' local branch, who since his arrival in Buffalo, has built up a grand business from what had become practically a dead stand. Little wonder then that indoor base ball has grown so strong in Western New York. With the exception of an Inter-City Base Ball League, composed of teams in Buffalo, Rochester and Hamilton, Ont., some few years ago, no attempt was made to form a city league until the past year, when the Buffalo Indoor Base Ball League was organized and contained eight of the strongest amateur clubs in the city. Another league has been in operation here for some time, but it is an independent affair and closed to outside clubs. This is the league composed of the various companies of the Sixty-fifth Regiment, N. G., N. Y. The local regi-

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 13t ments have the best places for the game, but one of the regimental rulings is that no man can take part in games unless he be a member of the regiment, and teams are not allowed to go outside the building to play other clubs- that is, in the city, and as teams representing the regiment. No objection has been raised to playing out-of-town nines. The Seventy-fourth Regiment, while having the finest place in the city, has not taken up the game as it was expected it would, having confined itself to basket ball, but it is expected that with the increasing interest taken in the sport by the sister regiment there will be additional teams placed in the field by the Seventy-fourth during the drill season of 1904-5: The Sixty-fifth Regiment has always been strong on base ball, having in its ranks some of the best amateur players in the city, several of whom can be found among the teams of the New York State League and other minor organizations. The pick of the regiment, called the Sixty-fifth Regiment team, holds the record of having beaten the Buffalos of the Eastern League in a 11 to 4 game during the early spring of 1903. The Bisons were unable to handle themselves satisfactorily on the small diamond, the soldiers playing all around them at the indoor game. The soldiers have been playing the game longer than any other club or organization in the city. Each year the athletic association of the regiment has awarded a silver trophy to the winner of

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a regularly scheduled set of games. This year found the team of Company A the winner after a bitter struggle with the men of Company C. The picked regiment team, the cracks, have held the Western New York championship-a much coveted title-for several years, but for some unexplained reason there was no all- star nine selected from the regiment during the 1903-4 season. Indoor base ball in this city is now meeting the same standing which characterized the introduction here of bas-

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. t33 ket ball. When the German Y. M. C. A. team won the American championship in 1901 at the Pan-American Exposition by defeating the best teams in the land, basket ball took a decided brace and has since held the people, being played by many clubs and teams, and is well patron- ized. There is every probability that indoor base ball will do the same thing after spectators have been introduced to the game as it should be played. It is safe to say that nine out of every ten base ball (indoor) fans either do not know how this popular indoor game is played or have never witnessed a struggle between two fast nines. Dur- ing the past season three times as many indoor base ball teams played the game than during any season heretofore. There has been easily an increase of over 200 per cent. in the number of teams and players. The one thing which keeps this game back is not owing to the slim patronage or the lack of material, but the inadequate playing quarters where contests can be played to advantage and viewed with comfort. Strange as it may seem, for a big city, only one hall could be secured to play the regularly scheduled contests, and that was too small. Although there are two of the largest armories in the United States located in Buffalo, in addition to a city convention hall, which could be used without any alteration, neither place could be se- cured. The Seventy-fourth Regiment, however, did allow the Buffalo Ramblers and the Buffalo Turn Verein teams to play their final game for the city championship in its big drill hall. The Sixty-fifth Regiment expects to enter its new arm-ory this winter and upon the old place being vacated by the boys in blue an effort will be made to secure the old building and to form a ten-club league. Out-of-town clubs can then

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be accommodated, also. There is excellent material from which to form such a league. Buffalo is a hot-bed for anything clean in the sporting line, especially in base ball.

1, Smith; 2, Tropf; 3, Kempf; 4, Hiro; 5, Ruff; 6, iBuse, Capt.; 7, Triller; a, Coffey; 9, Mould.  
HAWKEYE TEAM, DUBUQUE, IOWA.

SPALDING S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 135 The Buffalo Indoor Base Ball League was formed on December 16, 1903, when a meeting was called by Louis Ortner, of Ortner's Hall, Black Rock, the northern portion of Buffalo. Representatives from different athletic clubs, gymnasiums, and others, attended. It was finally decided to have an eight-club league, each team to be uniformed. The officers chosen at that time were as follows: >' ~ President, Otto Utz; vice-president, Daniel White; treasurer, Louis Ortner; assistant treasurer, Frank Besancon; financial secretary, Charles Pfeiffer; corresponding secretary, Edward Timmell; board of directors, Charles G. Meister, Charles Brown, William Shoemaker, Henry Pfeiffer, William Klinck; rules committee, the captain of each team. The schedule of the league was so framed that each club would play fourteen games, and in case of a tie, which happened, the same was to be played off. The clubs composing the league were: Spaldings, Buffalo Turn Verein, Black Rocks, Ortner Stars, Ardells, Records, and Belmonts, each club representing a certain section of the city. All games were played at Ortner's Hall, Black Rock, two games taking place on each Monday and Friday night. These contests in the early part of the season were well attended, but during the latter end of the schedule there was a big falling off, owing to the fact that the hall was too far from the heart of the city, requiring much time to reach the scene of play for both men and spectators. This is the greatest drawback to the game in this city, hence the desire to secure a central location, the old armory of the Sixty-fifth Regiment. But, nevertheless, the games were well contested for the beautiful silver trophy donated by the Buffalo branch store of A. G. Spalding & Bros., through the courtesy of Manager Weld. It proved a great prize and was eagerly sought after. Just to show the strength of the various teams, the first six games played

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 137 were two of nine, two ten and two eleven innings, making an excellent showing. Then later, quite a number of ten- inning contests were seen. Intense, but friendly, rivalry was shown throughout the schedule. No club at any time, with the exception of the last week, held the lead more than a few days, which again tells how keen was the struggle. First one club, then another, would reach the top, only to fall back and be passed by another. The Black Rocks were the fortunate ones to land the prize , and the league championship, but not the city champion- ship, that title being claimed, and justly, by the Buffalo Ramblers' Bicycle Club, one of the old- time organizations of Buffalo. The Records, Ortner Stars and Buffalo Turn Verein teams were tied for second place, but played it off. Almost the entire team of the Spaldings belonged to State league clubs and before the indoor season closed were ordered to report to their respective teams, hence their withdrawal from the league. No successor to them was chosen, although there were several applications for the vacancy. Each team was awarded one game, which it was supposed to have played the Spaldings. Next season will undoubtedly see a grand revival of this popular game, as the success of the league insures greater interest being taken by its devotees. The Ramblers, al- though not a member of the league, having dropped out of the race after the third week, have in their possession a silver cup presented by the Seventy-fourth Regiment to be contested for yearly by the two best teams in the city. After carefully scrutinizing the records of the four best clubs in the city, the Buffalo Ramblers and Buffalo Turn Verein were chosen. The game took place in the large drill hall before a big crowd and was won by the Ram- blers in a hard-fought game, both teams bringing forth much applause from the spectators for their excellent plays, the score being 11 to 6. The Ramblers excelled in batting, which accounts for their victory, while the Turn

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SPALDING'S OFFICIAL INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE. 139 Verein boys excelled in fielding. A peculiar feature of this game was the comparative difference in the ages of the players of the two opposing clubs. The Ramblers, who have been in existence longer than any club in the city, were fully seven years older to a man than the Turners. The Ramblers played fifteen games and won them all, a good record. They played three of these games while a member of the league, and it is a good prediction to say that they would not have got away so easy if they had remained in the league. They certainly would have lost some games. The club that deserves a great deal of credit, for it has done more for indoor base ball in this city than any other team, is the Buffalo Turn Verein. They organized in November with ten members, and played an entire season of forty-four games without having to look for a substitute or a new player. They played and hold a victory over every team in Buffalo and the near vicinity, the only team which they have failed to defeat being the Ramblers. They have played almost three times as many games as any other team in the city, or twice as many as any two teams. Of the forty-four games, they won thirty-three and lost eleven, including league games. Considering this being their first season, this is an enviable and a well-earned record. The Black Rocks have a very good team, also, being composed of the cream of the amateur players of their section of the city. The Ortners Stars and Records also put up some strong contests, each of them at one time or another leading the league. The Globes, Belmonts and Ardells were composed of some excellent individual players, but lacked team work-so necessary for a successful club-which placed them in the last division. The Spaldings had in their ranks the pick of Buffalo's amateur outdoor players, although indoors they had to play good ball to keep up with the procession. All told, the season was a decided success, and it is

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